

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SAJ-01 CU-02 IO-10 NEA-09

EA-06 OES-03 OFA-01 DLOS-03 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 INT-05 TRSE-00

/107 W

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R 161230Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5277

INFO USNATO 1111

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUESSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0415

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IC, UR

SUBJECT: FONMIN AGUSTSSON'S VISIT TO USSR APRIL 1-9

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REF: A. REYKJAVIK 0386

B. MOSCOW 4962

1. SUMMARY: COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL A) WAS DRAFTED IN REYKJAVIK OVER A 12 DAY PERIOD PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR USSR. IT WAS NOT ALTERED AFTER TRIP COMMENCED. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS PRIOR TO VISIT TRIED (AND FAILED) TO PRESSURE ICELAND TO INCLUDE MANY MORE MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE, THEIR GREATEST EFFORT (AND FAILURE) WAS APPARENTLY RESERVED FOR TRYING TO OBTAIN REGULAR LANDING RIGHTS FOR AEROFLOT AT KEFLAVIK, AND FCN TREATY, INCREASED SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH ON ICELAND'S SEABED, AND UNLIMITED EXCHANGE OF RADIO AND TV MATERIAL. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT WHICH WAS SIGNED IN MOSCOW DURING THE VISIT, THE SOVIETS INTEND TO UNDERTAKE A "MASSIVE" INFORMATION AND CULTURAL PROGRAM IN ICELAND, INCLUDING A NEW CULTURAL CENTER IN REYKJAVIK TO RIVAL THE HIGHLY POPULAR AND SUCCESSFUL USIS CULTURAL CENTER HERE. THE SUCCESS OF LATTER, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNG ICELANDERS AND POLITICALLY-IMPORTANT INTELLECTUALS, WAS PARTICULARLY IRRITATING TO FORMER SOVIET AMBASSADOR KIRICHENKO.

END SUMMARY

2. ICELAND WANTED VERY BRIEF COMMUNIQUE. SOVIETS INSISTED THAT "FOR PRESTIGE REASONS" AND TO RECOGNIZE "HIGH STANDING" OF ICELAND IN WORLD AFFAIRS, COMMUNIQUE MUST BE AT LEAST AS LONG AND AS FULL AS WAS CASE WITH OTHER NORDIC FONMIN VISITS.

3. SOVIETS WANTED COMMUNIQUE TO INCLUDE (A) ICELAND'S ENDORSEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO SETTLE CYPRUS ISSUE; (B) STATEMENT CALLING FOR RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS "TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND"; AND (R) STATEMENT WHICH

CLEARLY WOULD HAVE IMPLIED CONDEMNATION OF SAIGON, ETC.

4. SOVIETS WANTED ICELAND TO SUGGEST CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN NORDIC NATIONS AND USSR AND TO CALL FOR NORDIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE.

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5. SOVIETS WANTED RIGHT TO SEND UNLIMITED NUMBER OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH TEAMS TO ICELAND BUT HAD TO SETTLE FOR WEAK PROVISION THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL INVESTIGATE "POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER COOPERATION" IN FISHERIES RESEARCH (IE, NOT FULL RANGE OF OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH).

6. SOVIETS WANTED UNLIMITED ACCESS TO ICELANDIC RADIO AND TV FOR THEIR SCRIPTS AND FILMS, OFFERING ICELAND THE SAME UNLIMITED ACCESS OF HER MATERIAL TO SOVIET MEDIA. ICE-

LANDERS ADVISED SOVIETS THAT ICELAND DID NOT HAVE CAPACITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOVIET RECIPROCAL OFFER, AND, AS WE UNDERSTAND, ALSO TOLD SOVIETS THAT SINCE ICELAND "FORCED" AMERICAN BASE TV TO RESTRICT ITS TRANSMISSION, THEY COULD NOT VERY WELL TURN AROUND AND OFFER UNLIMITED ACCESS TO USSR.

7. ALTHOUGH GROMYKO WAS INVITED BY AGUSTSSON TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ICELAND, GROMYKO DID NOT RESPOND (DESPITE WORDING IN COMMUNIQUE).

8. THE USUAL SOVIET EGO-BUILDING TRAPPINGS OF THE VISIT (GOVT GUEST HOUSES IN EACH CITY, VIP PRIVATE AIRCRAFT WITH SLEEPING QUARTERS FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN SPECIAL VIP ESCORTED TOURS FOR WIFE OF FONMIN, FOOD, ETC) WAS NOT LOST ON AGUSTSSON.

9. STATEMENT IN COMMUNIQUE THAT OPINIONS OF BOTH PARTIES CONVERGED ON VARIOUS IMPORTANT LOS MATTERS OR WERE VERY SIMILAR APPLIES ONLY TO 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, FREEDOM OF TRANSIT, ETC, AND NOT TO RIGHT OF COASTAL STATE TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION ON FISHING RIGHTS OR LIMIT OF ECONOMIC ZONE. SOVIETS AND ICELANDERS MAINTAINED THEIR TRADITIONAL POSITIONS ON LATTER.

10. STATEMENT IN COMMUNIQUE QUOTE IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE POSITIONS OF BOTH PARTIES ON MANY IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES ARE THE SAME OR SIMILAR END QUOTE, ACCORDING TO ICELAND'S INTERPRETATION, APPLIES MAINLY TO INTERNATIONAL ITEMS MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE, SUCH AS LESSENING TENSION IN THE WORLD, PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR, ETC.

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11. LOCAL PRESS THIS WEEK HAS BEEN GIVING CREDIT TO FONMIN FOR NEGOTIATING CHANGE IN OIL PRICING WITH SOVIETS FROM CURACAO TO ROTTERDAM SYSTEM AND ALLEGING THAT THIS CHANGE WILL RESULT IN LOWER IMPORT PRICE OF SOVIET PETROLEUM, TRUTH OF MATTER IS THAT TEAM OF ICELANDIC TECHNICIANS HAD NEGOTIATED THE CHANGE AND IT WAS COINCIDENTAL TIMING THAT FONMIN WAS ALSO IN MOSCOW. SOVIETS ALLEGEDLY CHIDED FONMIN FOR ICELAND ORIGINALLY SEVERAL YEARS AGO HAVING INSISTED ON CURACAO PRICE BASIS AND NOW CHANGIN ITS MIND.

12. COMMENT: COMMUNIQUE WAS NEGOTIATED ON BEHALF OF ICELAND MAINLY BY MFA SEC GEN PETUR THORSTEINSSON, WHO ACCOMPANIED AGUSTSSON ON THE VISIT. THORSTEINSSON WAS ICELAND'S AMBASSADOR TO USSR IN PERIOD 1953-61 AND SPEAKS FLUENT RUSSIAN. HE IS PRO-NATO, PRO-US AND GENERALLY SUSPICIOUS OF SOVIET MOTIVES. HE HAS AGAIN SUCCEEDED IN

CONTAINING BLATANT SOVIET DEMANDS. SOME OF THE TACTICS
HE USED CONFIRMS HIS SENSE OF HUMOR.
IRVING

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